

DISTRIBUTED TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A telecommunication device includes a first interface coupled to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) in a first local calling area, a second interface coupled to a packet network, and a third interface coupled to a first plain old telephone system (POTS) telephony device. The device also includes a router that directs telecommunications between the first, second, and third interfaces and a gateway that enables telecommunications between the first POTS telephony device and the packet network. Furthermore, the device includes a processor that receives signaling from the first POTS telephony device indicating a desire to establish telecommunications with a second POTS telephony device coupled to the PSTN in a second local calling area. The processor identifies a second telecommunication device coupled to the packet network and coupled to the PSTN in the second local calling area and determines whether the first telecommunication device has an appropriate amount of associated credit to use the second telecommunication device to establish telecommunications between the first and second POTS telephony devices.